



Town of Hermon
Public Safety Meeting Room
February 1, 2024
Town Council Meeting
7:00 PM
MINUTES

To watch Council Meetings go to hermonmaine.gov click Council click Town Council Meetings click Zoom
Please see the complete video at [Town Council Meetings | Hermon \(hermonmaine.gov\)](http://Town Council Meetings | Hermon (hermonmaine.gov))

*****ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE COUNCIL ACTION*****

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Councilor Gray led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Richard Cyr, Christopher Gray, Danielle Haggerty, Ronald Murphy and Steven Thomas

Members Absent: Derek Wood & John Snyder III: Excused

Others Present: Town Manager Joshua Berry, Town Clerk Kristen Cushman and 6 residents/guests

IV. PUBLIC ITEMS OR COMMENTS: (ITEMS NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA)

Greg Newell, Stage Rd:

Handed out three packets of information to the council which included:

- **DNS (Diversified Network Solutions) Hermon IT Assessment dated October 1, 2023**
- **DNS (Diversified Network Solutions) Hermon School IT Recommendations dated October 1, 2023**
- **CR (Cybersecurity Rubric) is a guide to review a school's current cybersecurity level using the cybersecurity framework for education, which combines cross-sector standards with educational systems.**



Chad Leonard, Wendy Acres:

- **Clarified timeline for Chris McLaughlin for V. Chair**

V. REVIEW CONSENT CALENDAR: REGULAR BUSINESS, APPOINTMENTS, SIGNATURES, AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MINUTES	-APPROVE	1/18/2024
SIGNATURES	-APPROVE	Quitclaim Map/Lot 012-022-000 account # 1821
RESOLVES	-SIGN	
WARRANTS	-SIGN	2/2/2024

Councilor Cyr moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Councilor Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

VI. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IX. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS:

A. OLD BUSINESS:

B. NEW BUSINESS:

C. WORKSHOPS:

1. Forming a Charter ad hoc committee discussion/suggestions

- **Committee will be formed on February 15, 2024 and be charged with specific areas of the charter to give recommendations to the council in the future**
- **Committee will include: two councilors, two school board, 3 to 5 residents along with Town Manager, Superintendent and a dedicated staff member**
- **Voting members will be two councilors two school board and 3 to 5 residents**
- **Meetings will be public, allowing for residents to come, speak and give their recommendations**
- **Adhoc committee will be charged to look at three areas in the charter**



- a) Town Manager section # 4
- b) School Committee section # 6 (RSU agreement)
- c) Budget section # 8 (School Validation Vote)
- Town Attorney and the School Attorney work through the validation portion of the charter

2. FY25 Capital Improvement Plan – Draft

- Historically the School CIP has been approved after the Town’s but hopeful to have School CIP to include with Town CIP
- Funding of the reserves changed a bit because there is equipment that is no longer needed that will be sold to offset the reserves (fire truck and public works equipment)

3. Investment discussion

- Investing reserve funds via the Town Manager or Finance Director
- Looking to invest in CD’s not stocks, bonds etc
- Currently the town is getting 4.5% at Camden National and liquid
- Councilor Thomas is interested in getting 5.5% or 6% and will work with the Town Manager

D. OTHER ITEMS: (FROM TABLE PACKAGE)

X. APPOINTMENTS:

XI. MANAGER STATUS REPORT:

- Joint meeting with the Planning Board on February 20, 2024 at 6:30
- Condolences to the family and to Town of Carmel for their loss of Town Manager Kevin Howell. He was a big inspiration, and his loss will be felt by the town and region.
- Sergeant Decker was involved in an accident on Monday as a tractor trailer truck rolled over into his cruiser. He is home resting and recovering.



XII. FINAL PUBLIC ITEMS OR COMMENT: (ITEMS NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA)

Frank Rapp, Wing Rd:

- **Apologized to the Town Manger regarding a voicemail he left last Thursday regarding his mailbox**
- **He has been in IT for 18 years and did not make it past round two for the School IT Director.**
- **Five year plan for the School and Town is a great idea but they do not get along. School does their own thing and rules.**

XIII. COUNCIL ITEMS:

Danielle Haggerty: Old Town Police lost a long-time employee, Debbie Holmes. Sending condolences to them.

Update on the School finance committee meetings: Danielle wants to make sure she is sending the correct message from the council. To keep the town and school budget flat. Discussion ensued on the budget and how to keep burden off the taxpayers.

Richard Cyr: Relayed his gratitude and heartfelt sympathy to the Town of Carmel from the council and community.

Steve Thomas: Concerned with the timeline for when the Audit will be done. Josh Berry stated they are working with the Auditor and will be completed sooner than last year's. Ron Murphy reached out to Micah Grant and stated Hank (preps for the audit) has everything done. Danielle Haggerty stated Peter Hall has not started because we have not signed a letter of engagement. It's not because he is not willing to start.

Mr. Thomas still concerned the audit has not been amended. He gave the school a clean compliance audit despite the fact the school is being audited by USAC. Danielle asked Steve if he feels the council should have a voluntary disclosure added to the audit? Steve agreed.

Chris Gray: Concerns about IT infrastructure and the cost to the taxpayers to fix the issues.

Thoughts and prayers to Mr. Howell's wife and son.

Sergeant Decker was very lucky to come away with minor injuries from the accident.



Mailboxes: Will research a few towns with mailbox reimbursement policies and see how it is structured and bring back as a workshop item for the Council to discuss.

Will reach out to DOT on accidents at Annis Rd and Route 2 and additional lighting.

Animal Control: We have a very large number of dogs not registered in the town currently and late fees went into effect on 2/1/2024. Would like to workshop at a future meeting to discuss possible fines and penalties for dogs that are repeat offenders for running at large.

Would like to dust off the RFP for municipal auditors and send it out looking for future auditors at the next meeting.

Ronald Murphy: Condolences to the Town of Carmel and glad Sergeant Decker will be ok.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Cyr moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. Councilor Gray seconded. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kristen Cushman
Town Clerk**

Please see the complete video at [Town Council Meetings | Hermon \(hermonmaine.gov\)](https://www.hermonmaine.gov)

Explanatory note #1: All items in the CONSENT CALENDAR are considered routine and are proposed for adoption by the Town Council with one motion without DISCUSSION or deliberation. If DISCUSSION on any item is desired, any member of the Council or public may request the removal of an item for it to be placed in the regular agenda prior to the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Explanatory Note #2: In the interest of effect decision-making: At 10:00 p.m., the Chairman shall poll the Council and Town Manager to identify remaining items which shall be carried forward to the next Regular Meeting.

Explanatory Note #3: A Councilor who feels the need for the Council excusing his/her absence will make the request to the Town Manager or the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.